

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 11 has been cancelled.

1. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula



wherein A is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene chain,  
comprising the nitration of a compound of formula



wherein A is as defined above,  
with "stabilised" nitric acid.

2. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the compound of formula (I) is ethanediol-mononitrate;  
1,3-propanediol-mononitrate; 1,4-butanediol-mononitrate; 1,5-  
pentanediol-mononitrate or 1,6-hexanediol-mononitrate.

3. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any~~  
~~one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the "stabilised" nitric acid has  
a concentration ranging from 83 to 85% and is substantially  
free from nitrous acid and nitrogen oxides.

4. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water-immiscible chlorinated organic solvent.

5. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the chlorinated organic solvent is a mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-chloro C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl hydrocarbon.

6. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein the weight ratio of "stabilised" nitric acid to the compound of formula (II) ranges from 10 : 1 to 15 : 1.

7. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein the nitration is carried out for a time ranging from 10 to 30 minutes.

8. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~, wherein the compound of formula (II) is 1,4-butanediol and the weight ratio of "stabilised" nitric acid to butanediol ranges from 11: 1 to 14.5: 1.

9. (previously presented) Nitration mixture in a water-immiscible organic chlorinated solvent comprising a compound of formula (I), as obtainable by the process of claim 1.

10. (previously presented) "Stabilised" nitric acid characterized in that it has a concentration ranging from 83 to 85% and is substantially free from nitrous acid and nitrogen oxides.